

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed May 22, 2006. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Schmidt, et al.* ("Schmidt," U.S. Pat. No. 5,729,897) in view of *Ames, et al.* ("Ames," U.S. Pat. No. 6,617,518). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As indicated above, independent claim 1 has been amended through this Response. In view of that amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are moot as having been drawn against Applicant's claims in another form. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

Regarding the Schmidt and Ames references, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Schmidt nor Ames teaches or suggests a substrate having a peripheral edge forming at least one notch that defines an open space, and first and second cover layers that extend beyond the peripheral edge at the at least one notch so as to extend into the open space, the second cover layer being bonded to the first cover layer at the open space to form an encapsulation region that at least partially encapsulates the substrate.

II. Canceled Claims

Claims 5-19 have been canceled from the application without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently.

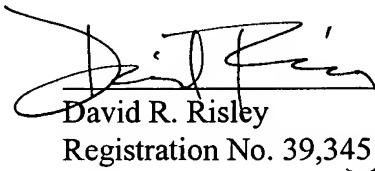
III. New Claims

Claims 20-24 have been added into the application through this Response. Applicant respectfully submits that these new claims describe an invention novel and unobvious in view of the prior art of record and, therefore, respectfully requests that these claims be held to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on

7-14-06
Mary Meegan
Signature